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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/878,051	06/07/2001	Thomas M. Cronin	10559-478001/P11157	1971

20985 7590 07/17/2003

FISH & RICHARDSON, PC
4350 LA JOLLA VILLAGE DRIVE
SUITE 500
SAN DIEGO, CA 92122

EXAMINER

CAO, HUEDUNG X

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2671

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DATE MAILED: 07/17/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/878,051

Applicant(s)

CRONIN, THOMAS M.

Examiner

Huedung X Cao

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 June 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kancler et al. (US Patent 5838813) in view of Lippel (US 4460924).

As per claim 1, Kancler teaches the claimed "a method of rendering a three-dimensional model," comprising:

obtaining a characteristic of the model (Kancler, column 7, lines 12-18);

determining a dither pattern based on the characteristic (Kancler, column 7, lines 35-40); and

rendering the model using the dither pattern (Kancler, col. 9, lines 9-15). It is noted that Kancler does not explicitly teach the model and the dither pattern are "three dimensions" as claimed. However, Lippel teaches that the dither pattern can be used to represent or render a three-dimensional model (Lippel, col. 1, lines 35-46; col. 2, lines 37-42). Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a dither pattern to render a three dimensional model

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because the objects in the scene can be the three-dimensional model combined by a plurality of polygons for representing as a computer graphic model.

Claim 2 adds into claim 1, wherein determining comprises selecting a number of points to make up the three-dimensional dither pattern (Kancler, column 6, lines 21-29) and a location of the points on the three-dimensional model (Kancler, column 8, lines 10-13).

Claim 3 adds into claim 1, wherein the characteristic is obtained for a region of the three-dimensional model, and the three-dimensional dither pattern is determined for the region" (Kancler, col. 9, lines 30-42).

Claim 4 adds into claim 3, wherein characteristics are obtained for different regions of the three-dimensional model, different three-dimensional dither patterns are determined for the different regions based on the characteristics for the different regions, and the three-dimensional model is rendered using the different three-dimensional dither patterns (Kancler, column 7, lines 35-52; column 9, lines 11-15).

Claim 5 adds into claim 1, wherein the three-dimensional dither pattern comprises data specifying pixels to illuminate when rendering the three-dimensional model (Kancler, column 5, lines 51-62).

Claim 6 adds into claim 5, wherein the pixels define individual points in the three-dimensional dither pattern (Kancler, column 5, lines 60-66).

Claim 7 adds into claim 1, wherein the characteristic comprises a density of the three-dimensional model (Kancler, col. 4, lines 22-27).

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Claim 8 adds into claim 7, wherein the density is obtained for a three-dimensional region of the three-dimensional model by averaging densities of sub-regions within the three-dimensional region (Kancler, col. 7, lines 52-62).

Claim 9 adds into claim 1, wherein the characteristic comprises one of a color of the three-dimensional model, a field strength in the three-dimensional model, a temperature in the three-dimensional model, and a pollution concentration in the three-dimensional model (Kancler, col. 9, lines 33-39, sampling the color of model; Lippel, col. 1, lines 35-46; col. 2, lines 37-42).

Claim 10 adds into claim 1, wherein determining the three-dimensional dither pattern comprises selecting the three-dimensional dither pattern from a number of three-dimensional dither patterns stored in memory (Kancler, column 9, lines 44-48).

Claims 11-20 claim a machine readable medium based on a method of claims 1-10; therefore, they are rejected under a same reason.

Claims 21-30 claim an apparatus based on a method of claims 1-10; therefore, they are rejected under a same reason.

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Inquires

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Huedung Cao** whose telephone number is **(703) 308-5024**.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **Mark Zimmerman**, can be reached at **(703) 305-9798**.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 872-9314 (for Technology Center 2600 only)

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office whose telephone number is (703) 305-0377.

Huedung Cao
Patent Examiner



MARK ZIMMERMAN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600